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CHINA.

*Report on the epidemic of plague in Amoy.*AMOY, CHINA, *June 14, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that on June 11 I cabled you as follows: "AMOY, *June 11, 1898.*—*State Department, Washington:* Plague. JOHNSON." Which I now confirm.

The bubonic plague appeared in this port about May 20. Only a few cases were reported up to June 5, when it suddenly developed rapidly, and on June 8 the consular surgeon, in his report for a ship bound to San Francisco, reported about 20 deaths daily, and that in his opinion the disease was then existing in an epidemic form. Since that time it has been on the increase. During the present week very warm, dry weather has prevailed, and if it continues, the spread of the epidemic will be checked, as the hot sun is fatal to the plague germs.

In three cities within a distance of 30 miles from Amoy, plague has been epidemic for thirty days. There being no official records kept of such matters in China, the actual number of deaths can only be approximated, but from estimates based upon the increased number of coffins sold and reports from Mission Hospital authorities, the average death rate in the three cities aggregates not less than 100 daily.

I have the honor, etc.,

A. BURLINGAME JOHNSON,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

CUBA.

Sanitary reports from Santiago.

The following daily sanitary reports (July 20–August 2, 1898) have been received from H. S. Caminero, sanitary inspector, United States Marine-Hospital Service, stationed at Santiago:

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *July 20, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I arrived yesterday afternoon from Port Antonio in one of the New York Herald's dispatch boats, and found the city almost deserted, as the inhabitants, who had gone out by order of the Spanish authorities, were just getting back from their forced exodus. I presented to General Wood, the military governor of Santiago since the surrender, your cablegram ordering me back to Santiago for active service. He immediately gave orders that my position as sanitary inspector should be recognized, and that I should also be appointed health officer of the port of Santiago.

July 21, 1898.—I have the honor to inform you that I have this day inspected, by order of General Wood, military governor, all the transports lying in the harbor of Santiago. I accompanied Drs. Guitéras and Pope, who had also been ordered for the same duty. The general health of the crews was good, and I found no yellow fever cases on the vessels I inspected, but many cases of malarial fever were found. Dr. Guitéras informed me that he found 3 cases of yellow fever on board the steamship *Orizabal*, of the Ward Line. The cases were promptly sent to Siboney, on the coast, where a hospital has been established.

Dr. Pope did not report finding any cases. The inspection is continued daily.

July 22, 1898.—I have the honor to inform you that all the families living in Santiago have come back to their homes. The details they give of their peregrination to the country are very sad, and as they have greatly influenced the present sanitary condition of the city, I will give you a succinct relation of the events as they happened.

On July 5 the inhabitants of Santiago were given three hours to evacuate the city, as that was the date fixed for the attack on the city. From early morning the families began to leave the town for the surrounding villages occupied by the American and Cuban forces. * * * General Toral, the Spanish military governor of Santiago, forbade the use of horses, carriages, wagons, etc., to carry any one to his chosen residence. The sick, old, and convalescents were carried on stretchers, chairs, rockers, and hammocks by paid servants or relatives. Children had to go on foot or were carried by their parents or friends.

Provisions were scarce, and only the well-to-do people were able to provide for their famished families. Twenty thousand went to the village of Caney where they were huddled together like sheep, each house would shelter from 50 to 100 people, others camped out under trees and in the open air, and were soaked by heavy rain. Food became so scarce that some of the refugees lived on green mangoes, cocoanuts, and roots. Malarial fevers and dysentery began their deadly work, and about 60 persons died within a few days. * * *

Cuabitas, another village near Santiago, received also a large proportion of the inhabitants of Santiago. The same scenes of horror and death were experienced by them.

It is owing to the rations distributed by the Red Cross Society and by the Army commissariat that all the people that left Santiago did not die of starvation. The Red Cross assistants worked with good will and did splendid work in relieving as much as possible the destitution and famine witnessed by them. Santiago is now living completely on rations distributed by the Red Cross. The shops and provision stores are entirely empty. Food is scarce, and the rich and poor are on equal terms regarding the providing of their larders. A chicken is worth \$3 or \$4; beef, 75 cents a pound when it can be found; eggs, 20 cents apiece; bread is an unknown luxury; all the bakeries are closed and will not begin operations for a day or two.

The sanitary condition of Santiago is very bad. Fevers and dysentery prevail; they are both epidemic. * * *

I am now trying to organize the sanitary service of the city and port. The removal of all the Spanish officials and their replacement by natives unused to the work makes it a little difficult at present to get the service in good shape, but I have no doubt I will have every branch of this important service in good order very soon.

July 23, 1898.—I have the honor to inform you that the sanitary condition of Santiago is growing worse every day. The fever and dysentery cases increase daily, but I am unable at present to give a true estimate of the number of deaths owing to the fact that the civil registrar's office was closed previous to the bombardment and has not been reopened up to the present.

The transport ships have some cases of fever on board, but they are of malarial character and no yellow fever patients have been found by me.

July 24, 1898.—I have the honor to inform you that two hospitals have been established in the city, one for ordinary diseases in the build-

ing known as the Yacht Club, on the shores of the bay, and the other for yellow fever cases, on the opposite side of the harbor, in the building used as a lazaretto. Both are in very good condition and well adapted for the purposes for which they are used. Both are intended exclusively for military patients sent from the different garrisons and from the transports. The one used for ordinary diseases is completely full, while there are no patients as yet in the yellow fever one.

July 25, 1898.—I have the honor of informing you that your cablegram of July 21, ordering that all vessels departing for the United States should be inspected has been received. Pursuant to these instructions, I have inspected the steamship *Santiago* and issued a certificate to that effect. As the United States consulate does not exist now, we do not give bills of health to American vessels, as it is thought that *Santiago* during the military occupancy forms a part of American territory.

* * * * *

July 26, 1898.—I have the honor to inform you that I have this day inspected, by order of the governor, the streets and vacant lots of the city where a large gang of laborers have been put to work in removing the accumulated dirt and garbage now infecting the air and producing the numberless cases of malarial fevers now prevailing.

Dysentery prevails to a large extent, owing to the bad hygienic condition of the city and to the want of proper nourishment. The inhabitants are still fed by the Red Cross Society's rations. In a day or two I shall be able to give the exact number of people who have died within the last two weeks and the causes of death.

July 28, 1898.—I have the honor of informing you that the yellow fever scare still prevails among the military element. Some of the doctors see the terrible disease everywhere, and malarial and acclimatization fevers are pronounced to be yellow fever until five or six days elapse and the patient becomes convalescent without having presented any symptom of yellow fever excepting high temperature. It is reported that there are several cases of the disease at Siboney Hospital, but I am not able at present to verify the report.

July 29, 1898.—I have the honor to inform you that 40 deaths have been reported at the cemetery this day. Of these the great majority were from dysentery and pernicious malarial fevers; the rest from ordinary diseases, especially anæmia and dropsy. The inhabitants of *Santiago* are fed by the Red Cross Society, but beef is very scarce (only 3 cattle are killed daily for a population of 35,000 or 40,000 inhabitants). Milk is \$2 a gallon, and condensed milk is about the only nourishment we can give our sick.

July 30, 1898.—I have the honor to inform you that the port of *Santiago* is still in fairly good sanitary condition. I have examined many cases on board the transport ships, but they were suffering from malaria or acclimatization fever which presents strong analogies to what is known as prolonged ephemeral fever.

Our theatre is now occupied by United States troops, and several cases of fever have appeared among them, but I believe none of them could be called yellow fever.

Several transports were inspected previous to their departure for the United States. Thirty-seven deaths in the city to-day.

July 31, 1898.—I have the honor to inform you that there are now about 1,500 sick Spanish soldiers at the military hospital Alphonso XII. The majority of them are brought in from their camping ground near the trenches. They are all acclimated soldiers and are suffering from dysentery and paludism. Our sanitary condition continues as bad as

ever, and the death rate does not diminish. Fifty-two deaths were registered at the cemetery to-day. Causes: Dysentery and paludal fevers.

Inspected to-day steamship *Louisiana*.

August 1, 1898.—Pursuant to instructions received from you by cable to-day, the commander-in-chief, General Shafter, ordered me to inspect vessels leaving for the United States and issue bills of health to the foreign ships. I respectfully informed him you had ordered me by cable to make the inspections which are performed on vessels clearing for the United States and give a certificate of their sanitary condition one or two hours before departure. Sanitary condition of Santiago continues the same. Deaths to-day, 39. Dysentery and paludal fevers both epidemic.

August 2, 1898.—I have the honor to inform you that at a meeting held to-day at the military governor's residence, and to which the principal inhabitants of the city were invited, the necessity of ameliorating the sanitary condition of Santiago was discussed. The Government promised to have the streets cleaned and all the refuse and garbage burnt outside the city limits. The cooperation of all was asked and the danger of not attending to the proper cleanliness of the houses demonstrated. I believe that within a month Santiago will be a cleaner and healthier city than she has been since her foundation by Velasquez. The sanitary condition now still continues deplorable. Dysentery and malarial fevers increase daily and the mortality presents no tendency to abate. Forty-one deaths have taken place to-day.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

INDIA.

Cholera reported epidemic at Madras.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D. C., August 12, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the Department has received the following telegram from the consul-general at Calcutta, India, viz: "*August 11.*—Cholera epidemic Madras."

Respectfully, yours,

WILLIAM R. DAY,
Secretary.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

JAPAN.

Report of certain infectious diseases in Japan.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *July 28, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith my regular report of infectious diseases in Japan for period June 27 to July 27, inclusive.

You will notice that dysentery has assumed seriously epidemic proportions in some prefectures, among them that of Kanagawa, in which Yokohama is situated. Fortunately this city and its immediate neighborhood remain as yet comparatively free from the malady, the number of cases in Yokohama during the fourteen days just passed having been but 14, with 4 deaths.